ARTICLE 14
Dispute settlement

Parties shall settle any dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention by negotiation or any other peaceful means agreed upon by them, which may include enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, or resort to regional agencies or arrangements.

ARTICLE 15
Relationship with international law and other international agreements

1 Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights and obligations of any State under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, and under the customary international law of the sea.

2 Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights and obligations of Parties under other relevant and applicable international agreements.

ARTICLE 16
Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession

1 This Convention shall be open for signature by any State at the Headquarters of the Organization from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010 and shall thereafter remain open for accession by any State.

2 States may become Parties to this Convention by:

.1 signature not subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval; or

.2 signature subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval; or

.3 accession.

3 Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument to that effect with the Secretary-General.

4 If a State comprises two or more territorial units in which different systems of law are applicable in relation to matters dealt with in this Convention, it may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession declare that this Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify this declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.

5 A declaration under paragraph 4 shall be notified to the Secretary-General in writing and shall state expressly the territorial unit or units to which this Convention applies.

6 A State at the time it expresses its consent to be bound by this Convention shall declare whether it requires explicit or tacit approval of the Ship Recycling Plan before a ship may be recycled in its authorized Ship Recycling Facility(ies). This declaration may be revised thereafter by notification to the Secretary-General. Such revision shall specify the effective date of the revision.

ARTICLE 17
Entry into force

1 This Convention shall enter into force 24 months after the date on which the following conditions are met:

.1 not less than 15 States have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with Article 16;

.2 the combined merchant fleets of the States mentioned in paragraph 1.1 constitute not less than 40 per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping; and

.3 the combined maximum annual ship recycling volume of the States mentioned in paragraph 1.1 during the preceding 10 years constitutes not less than 3 per cent of the gross tonnage of the combined merchant shipping of the same States.

2 For States which have deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in respect of this Convention after the requirements for entry into force thereof have been met, but prior to the date of entry into force, the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall take effect on the date of entry into force of this Convention, or three months after the date of deposit of the instrument, whichever is the later date.

3 Any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited after the date on which this Convention enters into force shall take effect three months after the date of deposit.

4 After the date on which an amendment to this Convention is deemed to have been accepted under Article 18, any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited shall apply to the Convention, as amended.

ARTICLE 18
Amendments

1 This Convention may be amended by either of the procedures specified in the following paragraphs.

2 Amendments after consideration within the Organization:

.1 Any Party may propose an amendment to this Convention. A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary-General, who shall then circulate it to the Parties and Members of the Organization at least six months prior to its consideration.